

## Shipping Information

(Below are questions that previous incoming interns had concerning their move to Hawai'i and the Graduate Medical Office response to these questions. Please review the following to see if your question has been answered before.)

**Question:** Also, do you know about how long it usually takes the Army to ship our car from mainland to Hawai'i? I suppose the Army doesn't reimburse for a rental car in the meantime, do they?

**Response:** The Army does not reimburse you for a rental car while you are waiting to receive the car you shipped to Hawai'i. Average vehicle shipment times to Hawaii are: 1) From the east coast: 40 days, 2) From the Midwest/Southeast: 35 days, and 3) From the west coast: 14 - 21 days. Contact your supporting Transportation Office for more definitive information and for help determining the optimum vehicle processing center to use.

**Question:** Do you know if there is a way to ship a car without orders (because we still don't have them) and have the government reimburse you for it? I ask because I'm shipping from the east coast, and they say it takes 60 days and I'm ready to ship the car now in order for it to get to Hawai'i in time but the limiting factor is my orders. I can't get stuck renting a car out there out of pocket.

**Response:** I would advise against shipping your car before you get orders via commercial means. You need to contact your supporting Transportation Office to determine if you will be entitled to any reimbursement, if at all. There could be a significant difference in cost and if there is, you would incur it.

**Question:** I heard that the military moving happens in two stages - first one is the main process which involves all household goods, a car, etc. But there seems to be a second shipment which involves last minute necessities good up to 500 or 700 lbs and is shipped via DHL or UPS so it only takes a couple of DAYS, not two months, for me to receive it in Hawai'i. Do you know anything about it?

**Response:**

You are referring to "Unaccompanied Baggage." Unaccompanied baggage consists of items you will need immediately on arrival at destination, pending receipt of your household goods. It is packed and shipped separately from your household goods. Items most often included are seasonal clothing, essential linens, cooking utensils and dishes, baby cribs and infant-care articles, a small radio, portable television and items required for health and comfort. You should also include professional books, papers and equipment needed immediately to perform your official duties. If included, the weight of professional items is not included in the weight charged toward your maximum authorization. Each branch of the armed services has rules regarding when and how much unaccompanied baggage may be shipped. After reviewing your orders,

the counselor at the transportation office can determine your unaccompanied baggage entitlement and advise you about delivery times.

I contacted the Transportation Office at Schofield Barracks and was told that the Army does not ship unaccompanied baggage via air. I was also informed that unaccompanied baggage is frequently picked up the same time as household goods. That means that it would take the same amount of time as your household goods depending upon when you arrange for pick-up. Contact your Transportation Office to see if it is possible to have a separate, earlier pick-up of your unaccompanied baggage so that it may be here by the time you arrive. I was also told that the Transportation Office here prefer to arrange concurrent delivery of unaccompanied baggage and household goods so that would defeat the purpose of shipping unaccompanied baggage early.

You may also ask the counselor about getting a "UB Mail-Out" letter that would allow you to mail some of your unaccompanied baggage via the post office to an address here. You would need to find someone here to accept your shipment and could ask your sponsor if s/he would be willing to do so. You would need to keep your receipts and a record of the weight so that you could be at least partially reimbursed. But talk to the counselor about the rules. I doubt that you would be allowed to mail the items via air mail if you intend to file for reimbursement.

Here is a [Web site](#) on moving tips that is linked to (part of) the Air Force Web site. If anyone can shed further light on unaccompanied baggage shipments, please feel free to tell us about your experience(s).

**Question:** Can I ship a motor scooter in addition to my automobile?

**Response:** My transportation office said a scooter or motorcycle is included in the weight allowance as household goods. So as long as you don't exceed this it will be covered.

**Question:** As far as coordinating the move/shipping a vehicle, will information be contained in our orders as to how to do this or is there an up to date website we can view?

**Response:** The instructions in the HPSP orders aren't helpful and only tell you to contact your Transportation Office to arrange for shipment. No telephone numbers are given. The orders for USUHS students tell them to contact their supporting Transportation Division at Walter Reed. This [pamphlet](#) should provide useful information. Also, visit this [Web site](#). Scroll down to the bottom of the page after you click any of the menu options on this site to see the information.

**Question:** Who do we contact to schedule our move to Hawai'i, i.e. our furniture, beds, cars etc. and do we need our orders prior to contacting them?

### **Response:**

Your orders will advise you to contact the local Transportation Office to arrange for shipment of your personal property. Your AMEDD procurement counselor (recruiter) should assist you with getting the telephone number(s) to the Transportation Office and Travel Office that will support your move. **Coordinate with your recruiter immediately if you run into problems** coordinating any desired transportation or travel arrangements based on how your orders are published. And you may also inform our office of any issues that you run into.

Transportation Offices will not make arrangements to ship your property unless you have orders in hand but the staff should answer any questions you may have regarding timetables, shipping allowances, etc. This [Web site](#) may provide you with some useful information on planning your move. However, the Transportation Office may be able to provide you with more relevant information.

**Question:** Does the Army take care of the cost of moving upfront or do we have to pay for it ourselves and then be reimbursed for it?

**Response:** The Army takes care of the cost of moving up front. You are responsible for the cost of shipping a second motor vehicle and would also be charged for any additional costs should you exceed your weight allowance. I believe that the maximum weight for household goods is 13,000 lbs for unaccompanied and 14,500 lbs for accompanied.

**Question:** I recently got married and my wife and I are currently living in two places. Would it be advisable for us to move all of the stuff that she is going to take to one location e.g. my house?

**Response:** Check with the Transportation Office to see if you can have your belongings picked up from both locations if that works best for you. If you aren't locked into a lease at both residences you may want to consolidate to save on rent. Balance the rental savings against any moving costs that you will incur to consolidate your household.

**Question:** How long on average does it take for our valuables to be shipped to Hawai'i?

### **Response:**

It depends on where you are currently located. There are no guarantees on delivery. I pulled the following information from our [Troop Command's Web site](#) for new arrivals. **Note:** Check with the Transportation Office to see what the timetable is.

Keep in mind the following average time-frames for shipping and receiving your household goods:

-- If shipping from the West Coast, your property should arrive in Hawaii within 45 days.

-- If shipping from Central U.S., your property should arrive in Hawaii within 50 days.

-- If shipping from the East Coast, your property should arrive within 55 to 60 days.

These are averages and not absolutes, but they are a generally good guideline to follow when planning your move.

**Question:** Is there a particular date when most people have their valuables moved by to take advantage of the greater free time available in June for us to get moved in?

**Response:** The sooner you ship your personal property the greater chance that it will be here by the time you are ready to move into permanent housing. Use these delivery timetables for backwards planning: 45 days from the West Coast, 50 days from the Central U.S., and 60 days from the East Coast.

**This page was last updated on 26 April 2007.**